

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). On this vote the yeas are 47, the nays are 34.

The nomination is confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The Senator from Michigan.

REMEMBERING CARL LEVIN

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today, I stand here with colleagues—my partner, Senator PETERS, and, of course, Senator REED and other colleagues—to pay tribute to an incredible leader and my dear friend who dedicated his life to serving the people of his beloved State of Michigan and this Nation—Senator Carl Levin.

Senator Carl Levin was many things: a crusader for truth and justice, in the real sense of the word; a man of strong convictions; a mentor to so many of us.

He was a Senator's Senator and a tireless advocate every day—every day—for the people of Michigan.

He was also my friend, and it was truly an honor of a lifetime for me to represent Michigan alongside Carl Levin for 14 years of his 36 years that he served in the Senate.

Thirty-six years is a long time, but Senator Levin remained effective and at the same time humble right up until the final day he served. That is because integrity never goes out of style and Senator Carl Levin never wavered in his dedication to do what was right—what was right for the people of Michigan and our country.

Perhaps he will be remembered most—although there are so many things—for his incredible leadership on the Armed Services Committee. Patriotism was a lot more than a flag pin or a pledge to Carl Levin. He understood more than anybody what it takes to defend our Nation. Perhaps no one has done more to ensure that our men and women in uniform are battle ready with the supplies and technology that they need and the fair pay and benefits they have earned.

In fact, Senator Levin worked so hard on behalf of our military that he received a Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. There is a suite of offices at the Pentagon named after him, and there is a naval destroyer currently being built in Maine that will probably bear his name: the USS *Carl M. Levin*. It was so inspiring to be with him during the naming ceremony in Detroit back in 2016.

It is fitting that he should be honored in this way because Carl Levin always believed that our government could be a force for good. This belief was passed down to him from his parents, who saw firsthand how the New Deal rescued families from desperate poverty.

A young Carl Levin admired Harry S. Truman, especially Senator Truman, who drove cross-country investigating

defense contractors who were committing fraud and wasting billions of dollars. I think Truman himself would have been incredibly impressed with Carl's leadership of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

A former civil rights attorney, Carl Levin relished the chance to cross-examine those he suspected of ripping off taxpayers and the public. His committee room was never a literal trial by fire, but he certainly turned up the heat on unscrupulous executives, special interests, or anybody who tried to get rich at the expense of everyday Americans. Those executives were sweating because they knew that Senator Levin had done his homework. He would dig so deep that he knew more about what they were going to say than they would.

Carl Levin could topple a tycoon with nothing more than a stack of subpoenaed documents. And we saw him do it. In 2007, he shined a light on abusive practices by credit card companies, leading to laws that required more transparency. Even today, your credit card statement contains more disclosures and more information, thanks to Senator Carl Levin.

His fellow Michiganders got to see a kinder, gentler side of Carl as well, and I know we did as colleagues. And I will never forget how his eyes sparkled when he smiled, with his glasses down on the end of his nose.

His heart was always in Detroit, where he was born and raised and lived his entire life. Meanwhile, his soul was nourished by the tranquility he found in beautiful northern Michigan in the Upper Peninsula, especially Isle Royale.

Carl helped Detroit make one of the most spectacular comebacks in American history, and everywhere you look, you can see evidence of his hard work. The Levin Center at Wayne State Law teaches future attorneys and business leaders and lawmakers and public servants how legislative oversight can be a tool for change and a force for good. He led the way on getting Federal funding for Detroit's beautiful International RiverWalk, which, today, features 3 miles of parks, nature areas, and breathtaking waterfront views.

In the midst of the Great Recession, we worked together closely to rescue our American auto industry, which for years had been battered by the forces of globalization. Carl Levin understood that manufacturing is the backbone of our State's economy and that our country needs to make things in order to have them.

As a member of the Small Business Committee, Carl also understood the importance of small business. In fact, in getting dressed today, I was looking at what I could wear that would symbolize Detroit, and I picked out a necklace that reminds me of what motivated Carl in Detroit with small businesses.

Amy Peterson is a Detroit entrepreneur who wanted to empower

women who have employment barriers, and Senator PETERS and I have both visited her shop. So, in 2013, she created Rebel Nell jewelry out of graffiti that had fallen off of walls on the sides of buildings. Today, she is incredibly successful, and she is empowering and employing women throughout the Detroit area.

Carl loved efforts like that. He championed small businesses, folks who wanted to—one after the other, have an idea and get it going.

Carl also understood that our landscape, our soil, our water are part of our Michigan way of life. That is why he pushed for years to have land at Sleeping Bear Dunes protected as wilderness—our beautiful dunes.

Senator Levin fought for the National Marine Sanctuary at Thunder Bay in Alpena and for the creation of the Keweenaw National Historic Park. It was an honor partnering with him in every single fight to protect our Great Lakes.

I can stand here for hours listing Senator Carl Levin's accomplishments, but they still only are a small testament to his character, his compassion, his humor, his strength of conviction.

President Truman once said:

Make no little plans. [Make no little plans.] Make the biggest one you can think of and spend the rest of your life carrying it out.

Senator Carl Levin lived those words every day. He wanted to make our State and our country the best it can be, and he spent his life doing everything he could to make that happen.

I wish his beloved wife and life partner Barbara; his brother and best friend Sandy; his nephew and our colleague ANDY LEVIN; his wonderful daughters Kate, Laura, and Erica; his grandchildren; and all of the family my deepest condolences and profound gratitude for your willingness to share this great man with all of us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the memory of a true lion of the U.S. Senate, Michigan Senator Carl Levin. Yesterday, he passed away at the age of 87, surrounded by his loving family.

Carl was well known as a fierce advocate for Michigan and a force of nature in the Senate, but the most important thing to him was his family. He cherished his role as a brother, husband, father, uncle, and grandfather. And I know his family and his loved ones are all reeling from this enormous loss. I along with folks all across the State of Michigan are praying for them during this very difficult time.

Over his 36 years of service to the Senate, the most ever for a Michigan Senator, Carl made an immeasurable impact. He served as the chairman of not just one, but two extremely powerful committees. He was simultaneously a zealous progressive voice in the Senate and one of its most bipartisan

Members, able to forge strong relationships with his Republican colleagues and find pragmatic compromise to get results.

I remember when Carl was first elected to the U.S. Senate, making a very impressive leap from the Detroit City Council to a statewide office. I was in college at the time, and over the years, I closely followed his service and his career in politics. He was someone who I looked up to and came to know as both a role model and as a mentor.

He was always gracious with his time and his wisdom, and I cherish the conversations that we had over the years, from my time years ago serving in the Michigan State Senate to my time in the U.S. House of Representatives. When Carl announced he would be retiring in 2014, I sought out his guidance and his blessing to run to fill his seat. As the campaign progressed, he gave me his endorsement and his full-throated support. I was both honored and humbled.

When I was sworn into my first term in the Senate, Carl presented me with an old map of Michigan and a handwritten note. It hangs in my front office to this day, and every time that I walk through the door, I am reminded of Carl, of his service, and his integrity.

Carl was a unique figure on Capitol Hill. He had no interest in the trappings of power. He saw service as its own reward. And he could certainly be a little disheveled in his appearance. He was very frugal. He wore inexpensive suits, and his loving wife Barbara would routinely sew up the holes in his pockets so he could get just a few more years out of his suits. Legend has it he once noticed a mustard stain on his shirt and he painted over it with Wite-Out so he could get back to work. His glasses were always precariously perched on the end of his nose, and he would fix you with a piercing gaze over those rims. Despite his small stature, he was also an incredibly intimidating figure, largely due to that gaze, his intellect, and his incredible work ethic.

Nowhere were those traits more apparent than in his role leading the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, also known as PSI. When Carl held the gavel, getting a letter or a phone call from his investigative staff struck fear into some of the most powerful and most corrupt figures in America. In fact, folks in Washington would quip that under Carl's leadership, the letters "PSI" had a completely different meaning for people: They stood for "pretty scary investigations."

Carl used his chairmanship to stand up for everyday folks—the Michiganders and Americans—who were working hard every day to pay their bills and play by the rules. He was furious when there were people who took advantage of hard-working Americans, and there were companies who were making millions and even billions of dollars cheating on their taxes and hurting average taxpayers.

Over the course of his tenure as chair, he took on the corrupt, the wrongdoers, and the bullies who no one wanted to stand up to, including major banks, the mob, and even ruthless dictators.

He brought a studious focus to his work, reviewing thousands, and sometimes even tens of thousands, of pages of documents so that he would know every single detail in that investigation. His investigative staff recounted that when he was preparing for a flight to Hong Kong, he asked for a binder full of documents related to the latest investigation to review on the plane. His staff put together 1,500 pages of documents for him to read on that flight. When he landed in Hong Kong, he called and asked his staff to send the next batch. He had already made his way through those 1,500 pages, and he wanted to see more.

In every investigation he was tough but scrupulously fair. He was disciplined and laser-focused on addressing injustices. And he was dedicated to seeing a fight through to the end, even if it took years.

Over the years, he tackled money laundering, abusive offshore tax shelters, and executives and bankers who cooked the books, dodged taxes, and cost workers their savings, their pensions, and healthcare. One of his greatest legacies at PSI was his work to hold bad actors in the Federal sector accountable for their abuses.

In fact, after seeing unfair charges on his own credit card and hearing similar stories from his constituents, he launched an investigation into predatory credit practices, including charging interest on debt that was already paid, hiking interest rates even when bills were paid on time, and manipulating charges to try to secure additional fees.

After a series of tough oversight hearings and a legislative process that spanned years, Carl's work became a central part of the Credit CARD Act of 2009, which prohibited abuse of credit card practices and helped more than 100 million Americans. He even cast his 11,000th vote during the process of getting that bill passed.

Whether he was taking on Enron or Goldman Sachs or exposing the corruption of Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, Carl was focused on holding the bad guys accountable and protecting the American people from their misconduct.

And despite serving at a time when Congress was growing increasingly partisan, he managed to bridge the divide. His staunchest conservative colleagues knew that if Carl gave them his word, they could count on it 100 percent. Whether he was working with Senator Coburn or Senator COLLINS, Carl was able to cooperatively work with his Republican colleagues, setting an iconic example for how to conduct bipartisan oversight that my own committee staff today still strives to follow.

Carl carried that same partisan principle to his role as chairman of the

Armed Services Committee, a role that he served in for 18 years. Whether he was working alongside the late Senator John Warner or the late Senator John McCain, Carl found bipartisan, commonsense ways to support our Nation's servicemembers and combat waste and fraud within the Department of Defense, and he worked tirelessly to strengthen national security and to keep our Nation safe.

Even though Carl took on such high profile, nationally important roles, he never forgot his roots and the lessons he learned about listening to your community during his time as a Detroit city councilman. He was a powerful advocate for all of Michigan, but especially for his hometown of Detroit.

I distinctly remember his determination as our Michigan congressional delegation fought to rescue Michigan's auto industry when it was on the brink of total collapse. As our senior Senator at the time, Carl led our delegation with quiet but steady resolve. At a time when so much was on the line for Michigan, Carl helped fight for General Motors and Chrysler, which was headquartered in my district, and to save the jobs of Michigan autoworkers and everyone who depended on them.

Carl was a champion for Michigan's auto industry and a true believer in the Motor City's ability to lead in vehicle innovation. He was such a believer in the future of Detroit's auto industry that he even bought one of Chevrolet's first electric vehicles, the Chevy Volt.

As a former taxi driver in his youth, Carl loved driving himself around, even if his erratic and aggressive driving style startled and sometimes scared his staff. And although Carl was ready to put his own money behind the future of Detroit, Capitol Hill wasn't quite so ready for electric vehicles. Without readily accessible charging stations on the Hill, Carl actually ran an extension cord out of his window of his Russell Office Building to recharge his car's battery.

He also fought relentlessly to build public transportation in Detroit. He had a vision of light rail that would transport people through downtown Detroit, and when he believed in something, he wouldn't take no for an answer, even when the administration of his own party rejected requests to fund the Detroit rail project.

I recall vividly a meeting between Carl, the Detroit representatives, and then-Transportation Secretary LaHood, and in classic Carl Levin style, he peered over the rims of his glasses, held a fistful of papers, and shook them at the Secretary's direction as he railed about how we had angels in Detroit who were willing to invest in this project, but we need the public sector to support it to get across the finish line.

His arguments were persuasive, and, today, you can ride the QLINE down Woodward Avenue in downtown Detroit because Carl Levin was so determined to make it a reality.

President Barack Obama captured Carl's legacy perfectly when he said, upon Carl's retirement, that "if you've ever worn the uniform, worked a shift on an assembly line or sacrificed to make ends meet, then you had a voice and a vote in Sen. Carl Levin."

But perhaps Carl's greatest legacy is the example he set for all of us. Carl's colleagues, his staff, and his constituents all agree that one of his most powerful traits was his integrity. He had strong values and a moral compass that always pointed north. Even years after he retired, as I traveled around Michigan, folks still tell me how much they respected Carl. They knew that even if they didn't agree with him, he was thoughtful and he was considerate. And they would tell me that while they may not always agree with Carl's votes, they respected his decision making, and they trusted what he was doing and thought was best for Michigan and the country.

Those same principles inspired such strong loyalty in his staff that he became known for having staff members who worked for him for decades. Carl's fearlessness, thoughtfulness, and independence marked the epitome of what it means to be a public servant. He followed his conscience, and he always fought to do what was best for his home State and for his country.

Carl's principled leadership, his dedication for finding common ground, his relentless pursuit of the truth, and his constant focus on ensuring that our country works for every American should serve as a model for all of us.

I am forever grateful to Carl for his leadership, his mentorship, and for his example. I will always remember the advice he gave me on election night, after I was declared the winner. He pulled me aside and said: Just remember, Gary, in the Senate there will be people who will try to pull you in all sorts of directions, but never forget where you came from, never forget who you are, and always work to bring people together, despite the partisanship and polarization around you.

We live in tough times, but he reminded me that people back home in Michigan are expecting me to get things done and deliver results. It is advice that guides me every day.

Carl truly represented the best of public service. He did his homework and knew the issues inside and out. He focused on doing what was right for Michigan and for our country. He never had an alternative agenda. He didn't chase front-page headlines or the cameras. He had no desire to be a political celebrity. He just wanted to get things done.

Carl's light in this world will be sorely missed, but the best thing we can do to honor his memory is to live by the same principles, integrity, and kindness that drove his leadership and public service for five decades. Carl loved doing his job, and he did it with boundless energy. Whether it was greeting his constituents on the street or taking

on some of the toughest issues in Washington, everyone was always trying to keep up with Carl.

If we could all bring just a fraction of his dedication, his integrity, and his intellect to our own worlds, Washington would surely be a much better place. May his memory be a blessing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, first let me thank Senator STABENOW and Senator PETERS for bringing us together to recognize an extraordinary gentleman, an extraordinary friend, and, for me, an extraordinary mentor, Senator Carl Levin.

I want to begin by offering my deepest sympathies to Carl's family, his wife Barbara, their wonderful daughters and grandchildren, his brother Sandy, and his nephew Congressman ANDY LEVIN. Those who knew him knew that Carl was, above all else, a loving father, a devoted husband, and a profoundly compassionate man. Today, we mourn with the entire Levin family.

I would like to take just a few minutes to reflect on his remarkable life and legacy. Carl served 36 years in the U.S. Senate and made every single day count. He was a gentleman and a statesman, a true champion for Michigan, for working families, for justice, and especially for the men and women of the U.S. military. Throughout his long and wide-ranging career, he carried with him a constant, enduring commitment to service.

From his earliest days growing up in Detroit, Carl understood what service meant. He worked his way up as an auto factory worker and taxi driver to get to law school and then to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, where he dedicated his early career to service as a public defender. From there, he committed himself even further to the people of Detroit, serving 8 years on the city council and fighting constantly to advance the civil rights of his constituents.

His 3½ decades in the Senate truly defined his commitment to service, and his accomplishments are monumental. While Carl is particularly associated with national defense, as the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, he was one of the most productive, effective congressional investigators and legislators of his era—or any era. Wielding his gavel on the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations with great clout and distinction, he was relentless in going after waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption whenever and wherever he saw it.

He didn't shy from tough issues. He worked tirelessly to expose major corporate tax avoidance and evasion, knowing that it was unfair for working men and women to pay their share while corporations found loopholes to pay nothing.

Carl changed the very way our government worked, using his legislative

powers, his backbone, and his brain to take on the most powerful institutions in America on behalf of not just the little guy but a healthier republic.

Serving alongside Carl Levin on the Armed Services Committee was one of the greatest privileges of my life. We liked to joke that we were friends and we traveled together so much because I made Carl feel tall and he made me feel like the most elegant dresser in the United States of America.

I was always intrigued during our 11 trips overseas together—mostly to battlegrounds—when I would try to pack light, my experience in the military having suggested that. Carl would show up with a little bag—just a little black bag. And I would think, "How could he get through these 5, 6, 7 days of trips with just that?" Then I discovered the answer. We would have a meeting with a Prime Minister, for example, and he would have his coat and his tie and his white shirt on and his slacks. And then he would get ready to go to the field. He would just take his coat off or undo his tie, roll up his sleeves, and head out to the field. Then we would come back to have another meeting, and he would put his tie back on. It was the Carl Levin method. And as much as I tried to emulate it, I could not.

He was one of the most incredibly genuine and kind individuals you would ever meet.

When he took on his duties on the Armed Services Committee, he understood that national security is not a partisan issue, and he maintained a spirit of bipartisanship that continues to motivate all of us.

He also understood that national security requires more than just defense. So he was an active supporter of diplomacy and international organizations.

Throughout his life, Senator Levin was a steadying force in turbulent times in global affairs. He was a staunch advocate for NATO, recognizing that our national power is enhanced by strong alliances with other democracies. He also lent crucial support to the START Treaty between the United States and Russia, limiting and reducing the number of nuclear weapons on this planet. And he later supported the Nunn-Lugar legislation that removed many unsecured nuclear weapons after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

But, most profoundly, Carl always recognized that the dedication and sacrifice of our servicemembers is fundamental to our military security. I feel that in every critical decision he made, he viewed it through the eyes of those young soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines on the ground—what would his decisions mean to them? That is why he traveled to countless outposts and ships to see for himself the needs of our men and women in uniform and to thank our troops personally for their service. And I was privileged to travel with him many, many times and to witness his concern for those who served.

At this moment, my mind is awash with memories and images; for example, in 1997, standing with Carl before a crowd of 50,000 pro-democratic Serbians in Belgrade, calling for a democracy to replace the dictator, Milosevic. It was a moving moment. In 2003, visiting our troops in Iraq—one of the first codels to enter Iraq—to find out for ourselves what was happening; what the troops needed; what we could do to protect them and give them the tools to do their job; and in 2009, crowded together, sitting on the floor on carpets with Afghan leaders in a small village, trying to determine a path forward. Carl always led by example and with decency and integrity.

Later this summer, it will be the honor of my life to speak at the commissioning of the U.S. Navy's newest warship, the USS Carl M. Levin. It is a great and formidable ship, bearing the name of a great and formidable man. I wish more than anything that Carl could be there to witness the tremendous honor for his namesake ship's commissioning. But Carl always did prefer to avoid the spotlight and the fanfare, and, I think, perhaps he will be smiling even wider as he looks from above at the christening of that ship.

Carl's life was defined by service, and we should all be grateful to be part of the legacy that he created in this very Chamber. His loss is immeasurable, but I am grateful for his lifetime of contributions to the people of Michigan and the people of our Nation.

We can best honor Senator Levin by carrying out his ideals and example in what we do here and what we do for the Nation, and, particularly, what we do for the brave young men and women who serve this Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I rise today to add my voice to my colleagues in remembering and paying our respects to our dear friend and former colleague Senator Carl Levin, whom we sadly lost last night.

My colleagues have been sharing their stories and their experiences of this incredible human being, this amazing Senator, and I want to share one of my own, a story of how he made an impact on my life and my approach to being a Senator.

It was back in 2009, when we had an enormous collapse of our economic system. I came here as a freshman Senator, and we were working to say what happened and how can we prevent this from happening again. A lot of what happened was enormously leveraged bets made in the Wall Street casino. A staff member of mine kept saying, you have got to read this essay by Chairman Volcker about how we take and shut down this Wall Street casino and how it puts our entire economy at risk and will do so again in the future again if we don't act.

After two or three times that my team member had approached me on

this, I put out an email to all of the Senators and said: Here is the challenge that is presented, and here is what we need to do to protect the future economy. Would anyone join me in undertaking to establish this Volcker rule to shut down the Wall Street casino?

The next day, I came to the floor of the Senate, and Carl Levin comes up to me. And he says: About your email from yesterday, about your email, I want to join you in that project.

He knew a lot about this issue, and he had staff members who knew a lot about this issue. Then he went on to say: And you may think because you are new and I have been here for a while that I am going to sweep in and take this over. He said: But I want to tell you, I am not going to do that. I don't want to do that. I want to work in full partnership with you, together.

And that is what it became, this full partnership: our team members working closely together, Carl and I working closely together, no one leading, if you will, or, to put it differently, leading together. And it had many, many chapters in this effort.

It was not an easy path to say the big banks needed to change how they operate. But what struck me in how he conducted himself was he expressed not egoism but altruism. He didn't focus on what he should do to advance himself politically; he wanted to know what we can do to serve the best interests of this Nation, not grandstanding but problem-solving to make the United States of America work better for everyone. And so we proceeded.

During the debate on Dodd-Frank, we had an opportunity to put forward an amendment to establish the Volcker rule. Colleagues across the aisle were none too happy about that, and it shut down the Senate for a full day. So Carl and I kept working during that day to say: No, this should be debated. This should be voted on. But eventually, our second-degree amendment died when the first-degree amendment was taken down. But our team members had worked through the night to make it a germane amendment so it would have survived had that not taken place.

So then we went, in partnership, over to speak with Mr. Frank, Congressman Frank on the House side. And Congressman Frank joined in the battle. And we kept pushing, and eventually, in conference, the Volcker rule was brought to life.

And then we started partnering and trying to prevent the rulemaking from tearing it down. And Carl would call me up and say: Here is what is happening. What are we going to do? And we would write a letter and we would call the regulators and we would rally our fellow Senators. He just kept at it. Like a dog with a bone, he was not going to let go. He was tenacious, saying: This matters. Every piece of it matters. We are going to get this done.

So when we think about the fact that that Wall Street casino no longer

threatens the American economy because it no longer operates as it did, well, we have Senator Carl Levin to thank for that.

There is so much more he did here. Colleagues have been speaking to other chapters of his work, but this was the chapter I was involved in. I think it said so much about who he was. His policy expertise, his humble approach to the fight, his willingness to take on powerful actors, that is truly what it is to be a public servant.

I wish Carl were here so we could have him hear these stories from us directly. I am thinking now about his colleagues representing Michigan who have followed in his footsteps. They are here: DEBBIE STABENOW, GARY PETERS. I know they are inspired by the example he set.

A couple of years ago, I had a chance to debate in Michigan and called up Carl so we could get together for dinner, together with his wife Barbara. And, boy, he was just interested in every aspect of what we were doing here and how we were, hopefully, making the Senate work better.

And just not so long ago, he wrote an op-ed about how to make the Senate work better by enabling the minority to slow things down, to have leverage but keep this body from being paralyzed. So he continued to think and to engage right up to his final days.

So, Barbara, we are thinking about you. We are holding you and your family in the light, and we are doing so with such appreciation of the life and work of Carl Levin.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I, of course, join my colleagues in their fond words for Carl Levin.

He was a mentor to me, like so many. And I am looking forward to speaking about him as well as my good friend Senator Enzi, whom we also tragically lost this past week, in the coming days.

But, today, I am focused on another topic, and that is the Olympics.

TRIBUTE TO SUNISA LEE

Madam President, I rise today to congratulate and honor Minnesota's own Sunisa Lee, who won the gold medal in the women's all-around gymnastics event at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

I got up, like many Minnesotans, at 5 in the morning to watch this live, and it was a sight to behold.

Suni hails from St. Paul. The youngest member of the U.S. women's gymnastics team at just 18, she has been competing on the national and international stages since 2015. She is now officially the best women's gymnast in the world.

Suni Lee's journey is a remarkable one. She faced incredible challenges to compete on the world's stage, including training through the coronavirus pandemic, breaking her foot, and sadly experiencing tragedies within her family